



BELARUS



INTRODUCTION

After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Government restrictions on political and civil freedoms, freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion have remained in place.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Aleksandr LUKASHENKO

Head of Government

Prime Minister Roman GOLOVCHENKO

Government Type

presidential republic, although in fact a dictatorship

Capital

Minsk

Legislature

bicameral National Assembly or Natsionalnoye Sobraniye (64 seats); House of Representatives or Palata Predstaviteley (110 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 207,600 sq km
Land: 202,900 sq km
Water: 4,700 sq km

Climate

cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

Natural Resources

timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

declining Russian energy subsidies will end in 2024; growing public debt; strong currency pressures have led to higher inflation; recent price controls on basic food and drugs; public sector wage increases and fragile private sector endanger household income gains and economic growth

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$180 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$19,100 (2020 est.)

Industries - metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earthmovers, motorcycles, synthetic fibers, fertilizer, textiles, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances

Agricultural products - milk, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, triticale, barley, maize, rye, rapeseed, poultry

Exports \$37.04 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, fertilizers, cheese, delivery trucks, crude petroleum (2019)

partners: Russia 42%, Ukraine 13%, UK 7% (2019)

Imports \$35.16 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment (2019)

partners: Russia 57%, China 7%, Poland 5%, Germany 5%, Ukraine 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

9.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.29% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)

Language

Russian (official) 70.2%, Belarusian (official) 23.4%, other 3.1% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 3.3% (2009 est.)

Religion

Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

